

Historical
Pamphlet File

Hingham, Mass. -
Tuttle Village

Hingham Public Library

66 Leavitt Street

Hingham, Mass. 02043



Geo. Wingquist

about shoe shop on
Friend St
also Tuttle Village
History
By Gayton's father
Urban Sidney Bates
1900.

THE EMMA WILLARD SCHOOL
Troy, New York

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Concerning Tuttle Village

Any history of the South part of Birmingham would be incomplete if it did not include extended reference to Tuttle Village - That hamlet on Ward Street ~~and~~ near Weymouth Line starting with one now grown to half a dozen or more substantial modern dwelling continuously and exclusively occupied by colored people for more than a hundred years.

The first settler was James Tuttle - not the James that some of us knew and remember but his father who was brought from some southern port by Capt. Marcus Lane. James Tuttle was born in Africa. I make this statement with much confidence although I must admit that consulting ^{in time by past} with people I thought should know I have been unable to confirm it. His descendants ^{present day} never heard it - thought he came from So. Carolina. I knew that too. My information came from my father and I have a distinct and vivid recollection of hearing him ~~say~~ say that old man Tuttle boasted that he had heard the lions roar in Africa.

education and could not have read if it now was
Spicer and its descendants likely to have been a subject of
comment as of story telling in his hearing moreover all
the older blacks in America would appear to have
come more or less directly from the West continent

Capt. Thomas Lane related to all the older ^{negro} families
of that name was a Master Mariner who sailed to and
from our southern ports. Now he came to bring James Tuttle
here I never heard. It appears that he was hired man
servant and perhaps for life and there was much of
that devotion so often noted between servant and
master in the south. Did anyone ask the old man
his age. He was just old as Capt Lane. All concerned
had of course died before my time. These legends
have been gathered from memories of sayings overheard
in my youth.

The second family in Tuttleville were the
Simpsons, a large family coming from Weymouth

I used to think and sometime I am sure that I heard
that they were shamed over into flight by prejudiced people
or fear that they might become paupers in Weymouth. But
a daughter aged but still living informs me that
was not so. They lived on Essex Street near Weymouth
Town Farm and one day their dwelling was burned

was not so. The land on which the house
now stands was bought and sold by the
family and was never sold to anyone else.

and her father chose his new residence in Tattleville. Their
old neighbors helped them to the new location and three
premises to Weymouth. soon built the house and the land was
trust for many years. in fact the transfer has been
made the title was never fully closed.

The Simpson family came to Wingham from Wey.
about 1853. a numerous family - there were 18 children
by two fathers - brothers and one mother most of them born
in Wey. the younger ones here. As only two died young and
another married and raised families. relatives
descendants are more scattered through all the surrounding
towns. The first brothers Simpson were born in Littleport.

I used to suppose they came from Cuba, but learned later
that Geo. being in youth a sailor, cruising much in
Southern waters. his reminiscence of Cuba gave abroad
the impression that he came from there.

The young in youth the generation attended school
as some do now. Some were in our school most
others mates of my older sisters. The young men
all became shoe makers and later factory hands in the
modern factories in middle life I worked here.

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several of them and do not remember a single instance of prejudice because of color. Some were fair antebellum musicians who often performed at local dances. As the whole Tubbs village may well claim to be an average community with no more delinquents and undesirable than other places some are now in France at least three from the local colony and no doubt relatives from somewhere.

In the immediate vicinity is Zion Hill chapel not deliberately so named for the name grew with it. The colored people have been prominently connected with the white have predominated in its membership. Financially unable to maintain a pastor they have seldom been regular service but a Sunday school holds in the warm season with occasional Sunday service.

The highway at that point called Zion Hill has borne the name only since the chapel was built. It used to be called Granny Bates Hill, perhaps I ought to know who Granny Bates was but I don't.

Midway on the hill on the north there used to be the remains of a cellar and a dingle nearby that was a well. There marked the residence of Sukeen Ward a reputed witch. The hill was formerly a very bad one - one of the steepest in the county where

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anything might happen to the traffic then & there
might be stalled. businesses might break and loads
slide off but every disaster was done to the civil eye
of Sakej Word. I never heard that she was
persecuted for meekness but she lived under the
shadow of evil reports.
In a field on the easterly side of Ward St-
is the ruin of a cellar with good sized trees growing
within the wall. This may or maynot have been
the residence of one of whom I write but somewhere
in the immediate vicinity of Lion's Hill lived Jim Webb
The genealogist of the King. history is silent as to his
birth. He first appear as an apprentice to Nathaniel Hensley
set-work cooper. It is further recorded that he married in
1816 that seven children were born to him and that
the family moved away to New Bedford.
His claim to notariety and fame comes from an
infirmity. I should think it was infirmity the that does
not seem to have caused ill health since in that he
required an enormous quantity of water. A large man

he is said to have a purpose at a time when a horse

Tales of his exploits were current for many years
told in real ~~fact~~ and observed by his associates
and, ~~believed~~ by any father who told the story to me.

His great dread was that of being flooded where he
could not get water enough which he knew would
mean suffering and death. That was a period when
Wing was a fishing port and most everyone went one
or more trips in a season. His father went once in a diff-
-tence but Jim Webb never dared to go lest the water
supply should give. His health appears to have been passing
since he was able to work and bring up a family. En route
to the salt marshes for hay he was never able to make
the trip without stopping. It was usually a woman
who responded to his request for a drink. Again & again
he passed up the dipper for more and the server just
knew that man would die before night.

He carried a pillow to bed every night and
consumed it all before morning. The Wing history
records that he was widely known among physicians
& scientists of Boston and vicinity. We would like
to know what became of him but out of the
distance and silence of New Bedford there comes
no answer.

was met so. The last of the day their dwelling was full of
men from and with day their dwelling was full of

The Shoemaker

Nine's was a class of men more independent
and care free than those who made shoes in
the little shops scattered everywhere about town
and other towns. Unworried by time clocks or
daylight saving they earned their modest wages by
making one pair one and a half or two pairs each day.

Now and then some enterprising man would hire
a gang" which means that by hiring three or four men
and subdividing the work as an efficient expert might do
he could turn off a case (12 pairs) a day. Such was the
plan of my neighbor E. B. W. whose shop was an
unfurnished chamber in his then new home.

It will be the duty of some future historian to write the story of the Finnish Colony now growing up in the woods around Tuttleville. They come from the granite districts of Quincy to bring up the children in better surroundings (so they say).

They seem thrifty and prosperous. If they live in a shack at first they almost immediately build a modern dwelling even a little better than that of the average workman.

They are well behaved. Language difficulties make them clannish. I have observed that the older ones do not acquire our language easily but children speak two tongues readily.